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TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1909.

The Freedom of the Press.

Attorney General Wickersham's attention has doubtless been sharply drawn to an important legal phase of the government's libel proceedings against the publishers of the New York World and the Indianapolis News by the resignation of the United States attorney at Indianapolis because unable to carry out in good conscience the duties imposed on him by those proceedings. The publishers of the Indianapolis paper have been indicted for libel in the District of Columbia, and the purpose of the prosecuting officers here was to procure the removal of the defendants to this jurisdiction for trial. It was similarly purposed to bring hither for trial the indicted publishers and employes of the New York World, who have, however, been indicted also in the jurisdiction where they are domiciled.

The removal of the defendants in both cases to the District of Columbia for trial involves a legal and constitutional principle which had been regarded by the press of the country as settled in the two attempts to bring Charles A. Dana, late editor of the New York Sun, to the District of Columbia on charges of criminal libel. Mr. Dana successfuly resisted removal in each instance, and his fight for what he thought a vital element in the constitutionally guranteed freedom of the press, namely, the right to trial at the place of actual publication, was cordially supported by newspapers generally.

"It would be a great limitation upon the freedom of the press in this country," said Elihu Root, counsel for Mr. Dana in one of these cases, "to say that every editor in every city and State is liable to be taken to any part of the earth where his papers may happen to go, and tried over and over again, hundreds of times, perhaps, for a single article. How can there be freedom of the press if there exists the arbitrary power to punish all over the length and breadth of this land?" This view was sustained by the judges before whom Mr. Dana pleaded his cause, and it so substantially accords with precedent and with the elementary principles of justice that its challenge in the recently initiated proceedings against certain newspapers for libel has excited surprise and apprehension.

We find in the New York Tribune, a steadfast supporter of the late and the present administration, a significant expression of opinion that the proceedings in the District of Columbia against the New York World will be dropped and the cause tried in New York. We agree with our New York contemporary that they ought to be, and the contemplated process against the publishers of the Indianapolis News should be abandoned also. We judge this to be a very probable outcome of any examination into the libel proceedings Mr. Wickersham may make. The business of haling newspapers to Washington to answer for alleged libel can hardly be a satisfactory employment for either the President or his Attorney General.

"Tom Platt says he made Roosevelt politically," says the Milwaukee Sentinel. Mr. Platt does not claim, however, that he did it intentionally.

A Conservative Rate Decision.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has distributed joy over the Western country by deciding favorably to the city of Spokane its case against the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads, wherein it was sought to secure a reduction of freight rates on commodities billed from the East. The decision is one of the most important the commission has ever made, and will have a widespread influence, if allowed to stand, over the Western freight situation. In substance it amounts to a declaration that freight rates ought to be lower, on general principles, where railroad earnings are excessive.

In reaching this conclusion, however, the commission refused to take an extreme ground in determining upon a reduction of rates, and in general the decision is not unfavorable to the railroads, save in the single matter of reducing rates. Several contentions made by the complainants, relating to alleged stock watering, to excessive valuation of right of way, and to water competition, were disallowed, the commission leaning to the view that railway capitalization ought to be accepted as it is, and that no deduction should be made from it because the right of way was originally acquired gratis. The commission held that the fact that the Great Northern had issued stock to its stockholders at par when it was worth more could not be considered in making rates, nor would it make rates for distributing the company's surplus to the public, although such surplus could be fairly considered as having a bearing on the question of excessive rates. Nor would the commission reduce rates to a figure fairly chargeable by the least expensively operated road, maintaining that a road is entitled to a fair return under the circumstances of its operation. The commission upheld the present system of making transcontinental rates lower to coast points than to intermediate interior points, on the ground that it had been forced by water competition.

As we have said, the commission decided that the rates complained of could be reduced because the earnings of the defendant roads were excessive; the Great Northern, for example, having paid in a year of adversity—1908—a dividend of 7 per cent, with $9,000,000 left over. If the roads had not been so prosperous, it is a fair assumption that the existing rates would have been upheld, and Spokane would not have received the relief asked for—the enjoyment of the same frieght rates from the East as her rival, Seattle. Thus the decision appears on the whole to be a conservative one, indicating that no rate reduction policy will be applied on the theory that railway capital is excessive, or that stock jobbery in the past should be penalized by cutting down railway revenues.

"President Taft." Beginning to come easy and look perfectly natural, is it not?

A Color Scheme.

From the New York Press we clip the following interesting little item:

"At a meeting of the Association of Shorthand Writers and Typists of London, called to discuss the important question of dress, Miss Ruth Young, the 'honorary secretary,' spoke. 'Color,' said Miss Young, 'has an indefinable womanly effect upon your employer—and it raises your salary.' White blouse waists, with elbow sleeves, she suggests, are hygienic and 'fetching,' and a coy little bunch of violets pinned to the white blouse helps along wonderfully."

We have no doubt the young lady is eminently correct in her conclusions, and we are all but persuaded, furthermore, that there is a deeply psychological reason for the scheme of things she sets down. If, as Congreve says, "music hath charms to soothe the savage breast," why not color, also? And if the savage breast may be quelled, quieted, and lulled to restful poise through music's charms and rainbow blandishments, why may not the breast of civilized and cultivated man be attuned to noble things—such as salary raising, for instance—through the benign and beautiful pleasings of symphonies of sight?

What is music? Merely a concord of sweet sounds; a harmonious blending of certain external influences that agitate the sensitive nerves of the ear to a delightful and thrilling response. Only this, and nothing more? Well, perhaps not altogether; but the definition will serve the purpose here intended, for, obviously, the relation of music to the finer and more shadowy aspects of subconscious and soulful things is another story, and far too subtle for surface pursuit. But if hearing be the avenue through which so much of sweetness and uplifting gentleness is impressed on one's mental equipment—impressed by the orderly and decorous arrangement of nicely adjusted sounds—why may not colors be so played, the one against the other, that through fit and proper combinations of the same there may be conveyed to the mind, through the eyes, parallel and equally potent impressions? Theoretically, we think, the latter suggestion balances nicely the former admitted psychological fact, if we may be permitted so to express it.

We doubt that this was rampant in the thoughts of Miss Young, of course, when she delivered herself of the idea on which this possibly fanciful fabric is builded. Her somewhat flippant indefiniteness suggests only a dim conception of the great truth she may have stumbled upon—she may, indeed, have been groping only in the twilight of profound understanding—but the tiny leaven of thought she gives to her kind may be sufficient, nevertheless, to leaven the whole lump of human intelligence untimately and cause it to expand to dimensions undreamed of in her philosophy.

Who knows but that the world may yet attend color recitals equaling in magnificence and inspiring uplift the song recitals of a Caruso or a Melba, or the piano enchantments of a Paderewski?

It is conservatively estimated that 845,978,246 snapshot pictures were made in Washington last week.

Hazing at West Point.

During the discussion in the Senate of the bill making appropriations for the support of the Military Academy there was an interesting debate concerning the existing legislation which prohibits hazing among the cadets at West Point. Failure attended the effort of Senator Foraker to reinstate two cadets who had been dismissed for hazing, which was unjust to those young men merely for the reason that other cadets, five in number, also recommended for dismissal, were retained at the Academy by special effort exercised by the Secretary of War and Mr. Roosevelt, who required the academic board to reverse its recommendations. The retention at the Military Academy of cadets recommended for dismissal can only have an unfavorable influence upon the cadet corps, who realize that it is largely a question of personal or political pull whether they may defy the regulations. The two cadets who have not been reinstated took a roundabout way in getting back to the Academy, and failed, where others, no less offenders, were able to prevail upon the military authorities in Washington to a much more successful issue of their cause.

One feature of the Senatorial debate was Senator Du Pont's appeal for a revision of the law so as to permit a limited amount of hazing. He based this on his own experience at West Point, from which institution he was graduated in 1861. He believed there were good results from hazing. The difficulty in the way of any such privilege comes from the limitation which may be placed upon hazing, which, even under the existing regulations and law, has been practiced apparently without interruption. There is no need of statutory authorization for hazing so long as hazers find it possible to escape the penalty imposed by law and possess the means of indirectly inducing the academic board to reverse its recommendations of dismissal. What is apparently needed is an observance of Military Academy regulations in Washington, where they originated, and where, as a matter of example, if for no other reason, they should be reasonably observed.

"It is reported that Mr. Taft has changed the atmosphere of the White House. That is getting pretty close to the weather man's job," says the Baltimore News. Just at this time, however, Mr. Taft probably has his doubts about the weather man's ability to do an important job in the precise manner it should be done.

Washington "fans" who intend to do any very extensive pennant bragging this year are advised to get busy.

The per capita circulation of gold lace and brass buttons is also perceptibly lower in Washington nowadays.

"Welcome to the returning sun of prosperity," says a contemporary of the Maryland persuasion. Let the blessed sunshine in!

We do not anticipate in the near future any large number of stories from the Dark Continent telling how "we" killed a lion, or "we" killed an elephant, anyway.

There are abundant evidences, we regret to report, nevertheless, that we shall not effect a satisfactory change in the inauguration date without some sharp conflicts with the hair-splitters.

In Kingsbury, a fashionable suburb of St. Louis, inhabited exclusively by millionaires, was born last week the first baby in ten years. Sometimes, it appears, the worst laid plans o' mice and men also gang aft aglee.

Already some of the editors are beginning to refer to him as "Brother Roosevelt." Have they no recollection of his dictum of other days, "My spear knows no brother?"

Mr. Bellamy Storer called at the White House on Sunday last. Incidentally, we presume, he opened the door of hope to his fellow-members of the Ananias Club.

"Chorus girls mob Binns," says a headline in the New York Times. It would appear to be high time for Jack to hang out the C. Q. D. signal again.

The old guard dies, but it never surrenders. A North Carolinian has named his recently arrived triplets William, Jennings, and Bryan, respectively.

"So far as the information goes, no Atlanta visitor to Washington for the inauguration demanded 'possum at the hotels," says the Savannah News. Every now and then one of those Cracker State papers lets out a flash of the real truth in respect of the 'possum.

Before a great while now there will not be anything to get excited about except baseball.

The new administration is already playing in great luck with the common people. The price of eggs has dropped sharply during the past few days.

"Mr. Roosevelt's first editorial in the Outlook is lacking in the ginger that has made his state papers famous," says the Pittsburg Dispatch. In the words of an erstwhile popular song, Mr. ex-President, "It makes no difference what you were, it's what you are to-day."

"I am a Democrat," said Mr. Dickinson, as he wends his way Capitalward to be sworn in as a Cabinet official. All right, sir. But what is a Democrat, as Shem inquired of Noah?

The Charlotte Observer is celebrating its seventeenth birthday. Here's a health to it: May it live long and prosper! With all its biographical faults, we love it still.

"A Texas legislator complains that he was improperly approached," says the Mobile Register. As we understand the situation in Grand Old Texas, nothing so fills a legislator with woe as to be improperly approached.

The Secret Service men attending the President nowadays wear frock coats and plug hats. The idea that they recently wore false whiskers and green goggles, however, is erroneous.

TRAFFIC OF A GREAT CITY.

Stupendous Number of Passengers Annually Carried in New York.

From the Scientific American.

Not many of us were prepared for the really stupendous figures of the passenger traffic of New York City, which are made public in the report for 1908 of that most admirable and efficient body known as the public service commission. It appears that the surface, elevated, and subway companies in New York carry annually over 1,300,000,000 passengers. What these figures mean will be better understood when it is stated that they are over 66 per cent greater than the total number of passengers carried in the same year on all the steam railroads of the country combined. The total capitalization of these transportation companies is over $833,000,000, and they derive annually from the passengers carried over $62,000,000. Incidentally, it may be mentioned that the capitalization of New York's gas and electric companies is over $386,000,000, and that they sell, annually, 32,000,000,000 cubic feet of gas; which amount is more than 20 per cent of the entire gas production in the United States. Moreover, the income from the sale of electricity alone in the city exceeds $20,000,000.

By the close of 1908 the city had expended over $50,000,000 in the construction of subways; and an additional $100,000,000 will be necessary to build the Broadway-Lexington avenue line, the loop lines connecting the Williamsburg and Manhattan bridges, the line across Manhattan below Canal street in Manhattan, and the Fourth avenue line in Brooklyn.

Good Roads and Big Roads.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin.

While the building of a great State highway from east to west is under consideration in Pennsylvania, the scheme to construct a fine ocean front boulevard from Atlantic Highlands to Cape May is arousing much attention in New Jersey. There is little doubt that if this avenue should be created according to the lines which have been laid down it would constitute a valuable and permanent asset of the Commonwealth across the Delaware. New Jersey occupies a somewhat unique position as a community whose ocean frontage brings to her territory a vast multitude of visitors every year. Whatever adds to the attractiveness of her natural facilities in this respect will be pretty sure to bring in handsome pecuniary returns to her people in the long run.

No Compromise with Gag Rule.

From the St. Louis Republic.

It is a pity that a session of the American Congress should expire under such circumstances that the minority leader of the House cannot conscientiously offer the usual resolution of courtesy thanking the Speaker for the fairness and impartiality with which he has presided. But at the expiration of the Sixtieth Congress Champ Clark could not have offered such a resolution without stultifying himself and his party. The Democratic minority in the House does not compromise with gag rule, and ought not to.

Their Trust Is Above.

From the Indianapolis News.

But, after all, those Pittsburg graft defendants have only been convicted by a mere jury. The judges higher up are yet to speak.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

OUR BENEFACTRESS.

Maud Müller on a summer's day
Stood in the meadow raking hay.
And we have had from poet men
A thousand parodies since then.

Methinks the gentle poet bund
Should all combine to raise a fund.
'Tis not enough to merely laud;
We owe a monument to Maud.

Driven to It.

'Why did that Babylonian king institute the hanging gardens?"

"I presume because the king next door kept chickens."

A Weak Excuse.

'You here?"

"Yes."

"I'm surprised to see you at a barefoot dance."

"Well, I just came to see if they sandpapered the stage."

The Evening Episode.

'Is your child in bed by 8 every evening?"

'Technically, yes. We begin arguing about that hour."

Boudoir Magic.

They say a handy girl can do
Odd feats galore;
Transform a wispy curl into
A pompadour.

Very Possibly.

"What is the explorer's aim?"

"Usually to gather material for a lecture."

"I wonder if that is why my wife explores my private papers."

Tall and Slender.

"What style of architure is this Tower of Pisa?"

"Directoire, I should say."

Something New.

"Does your opera open with the usual chorus of merry villagers?"

"No, my opera is very remarkable. It opens with a chorus of disgruntled taxpayers."

INAUGURATION DAY.

More Demands for Date that Promises Decent Weather.

From the Cleveland Leader.

In the climate of the National Capital May 1 would be an ideal time, in normal years, for such a ceremony and open-air spectacle as the inauguration of the President. It would make the great event of Washington life, every four years, much more enjoyable for hundreds of thousands of Americans eager to share to the utmost in the quadrennial demonstration of military power and civic splendor. There is really no argument against the later date except the weight of inertia. If the change were once made there would never be the slightest objection from any source. It is high time for a safe and sane inauguration day.

From the Boston Herald.

Speaker Cannon lines up as favoring a date later in the season for inauguration of President and Vice President. Arguments based on preservation of health, physical comfort, facility of execution of plans, and popular pleasure all converge in favor of the advocated change. But unless action be taken now, while memories of the latest and worst experience are fresh, it is not likely that reform will come. If Mr. Taft will make it his business to press the matter on Congress, and keep it there until sense triumphs over tradition and legislative inertia, then something may happen.

From the Houston Post.

Common sense suggests that the inaugural date should be in the springtime or else the present custom of public celebration be entirely abandoned. Early March is never suitable for the great parade or the open-air ceremonies in front of the Capitol. There is no way to ascertain how many lives are sacrificed at each inauguration because of the untoward weather. The dispatches will doubtless announce the death of persons of prominence, but the hundreds and perhaps thousands who will die as a result of exposure during the Taft inauguration may never be known.

From the Savannah News.

The weather in Washington is nearly always bad in early March. Broadly speaking, there is no worse weather in the world than that of Washington on and about inauguration day. Then why don't they change the day? What fetich is there about March 4 that should be worshiped?

MEREDITH'S VIEW OF LIFE.

Aged Poet Chooses Four Lines of His Own Verse.

From a London letter to the Boston Transcript.

Mr. Meredith spent his eighty-first birthday very quietly at Boxhill, on February 12—much more quietly than his eightieth anniversary, when, it will be remembered, he was presented with an address on behalf of English and American authors. Recently, when a friend questioned Mr. Meredith concerning some favorite lines of his own, he quoted the words:

Full lasting is the song though he
The singer passes; lasting, too,
For souls not lent in usury,
The rapture of the forward view.

But the author to be of his age must detach himself from it. So for forty years past the novelist has lived down at Boxhill, and in the little house at the foot of "the long green rollers of the down," he has thought and written and looked upon the world of men. Advancing years have obtained a mastery over the body. But the mind is as alert, searching, and kindly as ever. To hear him talk is to partake of a feast of vivacity, humor, and satire, rich with worldliness and unworldliness. Nor is there anything bewildering to those who know him in the facility with which he turns his observation from the bankside which, he points out, will soon be covered with violets, or the pile of faggots by the path with their raw, red, amputated look, to comments on literary or national affairs.

Consolatory Thought.

From the Atchison Globe.

Did you ever stop to think that almost every minute in the day some one somewhere is having teeth pulled? This proves that there is always some one worse off than you are.

THE HUMAN NOTE.

Through the harmonies of Heaven stole a note of throbbing pain,
Touched with longing, tinged with sadness, seeming human in its birth;
Seeming less the stainless music that is meet for such domain,
Than the cry of some dazed mortal, yearning—backward toward the earth.

But it did not sound forever, this stray note so passionate;
Soon the singer, now all-angel, sang with others round the throne:
"Glory, glory!" Past, forgotten, life and love beyond the gate,
That before had set his singing to a tragic undertone.

Yet there vanished then a richness more than psaltery or lute
Could outpour, though seraphs plucked them, worshiping the Lord a-near;
For within the vibrant grieving, now forever hushed and mute,
Lay the pathos of endeavor, hope and heartbreak, love and fear;
Yes, the wistful human groping, and the doubt that makes it dear.

—Richard Burton, in the Outlook.

WASHINGTON CHAT.

By THE SPECTATOR.

Two recent appointments particularly pleasing to the people of Washington are those of Huntington Wilson, as Assistant Secretary of State, and Beekman Winthrop, as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Mr. Wilson is not only well known and well liked here, but he is regarded as one of the best-trained diplomatists of his age in the service, which is not to be wondered at, since he has devoted his whole life to the study and practice of diplomacy. A short life, to be sure, for he is now barely thirty-five years old, but he entered the service when he was twenty-four years old as second secretary of legation at Tokyo; later he was promoted to the secretaryship, and, in the absence of the minister, acted as charge d'affaires at various times. When the legation was raised to an embassy he was promoted to the grade of secretary of embassy. Mr. Wilson remained in Japan, however, only a month after this change, as he was at that time appointed Third Assistant Secretary of State, an office he creditably filled until he was accredited as minister to the Argentine Republic, whence he now returns to his former office with higher rank.

Mr. Wilson was graduated from Yale with the class of '97, and during his college course, as well as since, he has been much interested in archaeology, and is a member of the Archaeological Institute and of the National Geographic Society. Some five years ago he married Miss Wortham, of St. Louis, Mo., who has presided over the American Legation at Buenos Ayres since her husband took up his residence there. In manner Mr. Wilson is agreeable, responsive, most courteous, and he has so ingratiated himself with the people of the Argentine capital that the news of his recall will be received there with great regret.

Mr. Wilson belongs to the new school of diplomacy, and apropos of this, too much cannot be said in praise of the improvement in our diplomatic service in the past twenty years, which is due to this new school; due to the fact that the recently appointed American representatives abroad have been men of experience, education, and especial training, and that President Roosevelt and his immediate predecessors practically introduced civil service in our foreign affairs and, carefully selecting their diplomatic appointees, they kept them in office during good behavior and promoted them according to merit and opportunity, with the result that the escapades and antics of our diplomats no longer furnish amusement for the whole world.

It was a foregone conclusion that Beekman Winthrop would receive an important office under the new administration, for he was intimately associated, first, as private secretary, and then as acting executive secretary, with President Taft in the Philippines, and between them there grew up a strong regard and mutual admiration. It would be hard, indeed, to know Mr. Winthrop well and not admire him, for he has inherited all the agreeable, as well as the sterling, traits for which the family from which he sprung has been for generations noted. The founder of the American branch of this distinguished house was John Winthrop, who was born in Croton, England, in 1588, and died in Boston in 1649. He was chosen governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony by the company in London, and came to Salem in 1630, later settling in Boston, where he died. This was Beekman Winthrop's great-great-grandfather, from whom he is a descendant in the sixth generation. There is much protest against the intermarriage of American girls with foreigners these days, but in the early days of the republic it was a common thing, and one of Mr. Winthrop's connections, Thomas C. Winthrop, married the daughter of Sir John Temple, first British consul general to the United States. Miss Temple was adopted by her grandfather, Gov. Bowdoin, of Massachusetts, and she was for years the reigning belle in Boston, the toast of her day, counting among her admirers many of the distinguished officers in the Revolution, among them Lafayette.

Beekman Winthrop's father was Robert Winthrop, his mother Kate W. Taylor, and in 1903 he married Melza Riggs Wood, of New York. He is an alumnus of Harvard, graduating in the class of '97, and three years later he took his degree in law at the same university. In the same year he was admitted to the New York bar, but before he had time to "hang out his shingle" Gov. Taft offered him the position of private secretary, which he immediately accepted and went with his chief to the Philippines, where he remained until he was made governor of Porto Rico in 1904, resigning this billet to become Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Winthrop is an agreeable man to know, an agreeable official to be associated with. He has a just appreciation of the work done by his subordinates, and the inclination to reward the same. Socially, both he and Mrs. Winthrop have been very popular, and the news that they will remain at the Capital has been received with immense satisfaction by their friends.

When Mrs. Wickersham, the wife of the Attorney General, lived in Washington she was a member of the Unitarian Church, now known as All Souls' Church, which was situated at that time at the corner of Sixth street and Louisiana avenue, in the quaint old building designed by Charles Bullfinch, which was torn down a few years ago to make room for the handsome police court that now occupies that site. The pastor at that time was the Rev. Dr. Frederick Hinckley, and one of his most helpful and devoted followers was Mrs. Wickersham, then Mildred Wendell, who taught in the Sunday school, was interested in all the parish work, and an important factor of Mr. Hinckley's congregation. One of her former scholars remembers her as "beautiful, with the kindest and sweetest brown eyes, light brown hair, inclined to wave; a radiant complexion, and a lovely smile, with much taste in dress. In conversation she was bright and vivacious, and with her scholars always tender and sympathetic. Her recently published pictures, taken more than thirty years since I have seen her, are not at all unlike her as I remember her to have been."

Attorney General Wickersham's sister is married to the steel king of Great Britain, Sir R. A. Hadfield, who is the inventor of manganese steel, and manager and director of the Hadfield Steel Foundry, Limited, besides being interested in all the important enterprises in Sheffield, and in engineering and mining the world over. Sir Robert Hadfield was awarded the Bessamer gold medal for 1894, and the Quinquennial Prize and premium of sixty-five guineas in 1903. Innumerable other decorations have been bestowed upon him, and last summer he was knighted by King Edward. Lady Hadfield came to this country for the inauguration and will pass several weeks with her friends and relatives here and in New York before returning to her home in England.

Burying the Wires.

From the Philadelphia Press.

From Boston to Washington extends the largest city population strung on one line to any country. Wires on poles are still the one mode of telegraphic and telephonic communication. In storms they break. What this means the country has just seen. These wires should be buried. No European municipal area like this any longer depends on poles alone.

MR. TAFT AND THE SOUTH.

Commendation of His Utterances on Negro Appointments.

From the Savannah News.

The elimination of the negro from important Federal offices will be another step in advance, so far as the South is concerned. It is an admission that only the people who own the property, transact the business, and pay the taxes should be considered in the filling of the offices. Heretofore the Federal offices in the South have been regarded as a means of holding the negroes, North and South, in the Republican party. If we understand the inaugural address right, they are not to be used in future for any such purpose. The new administration therefore means that much to the South, and it may mean a good deal more. By a good deal more we mean that if it is understood that the negro is not to figure in Southern politics and isn't to hold offices, there is likely to be a strong movement of capital and the best class of immigrants to the Southern States. All things considered, therefore, there seems to be reason for saying that the South will be a distinct gainer by the change in the administration.

From the Charlotte Observer.

Mr. Taft evidently recognizes that sectional attempts to bulldoze the South as regards the negro can never do any good, least of all to the negro himself; the new President's reason no less than his inclination forbid any such course. Surely the excellent sense and excellent feeling which he shows will not be lost upon Southern white men. We cannot entirely agree with him, but all of us who are fair-minded agree with him to a great extent, and it will be well for the whole country if we conduct ourselves accordingly.

From the Charleston News and Courier.

That is the fairest, cleanest, best, and evidently most sincere statement that has ever been made on the negro question by any Republican who has filled the office of President, and it reflects great credit upon Mr. Taft's common sense and his truly patriotic view of a most difficult problem.

MILITARY DELIRIUM.

The Obsession that We Are in Danger from Foreign Foes.

Charles E. Jefferson, in the Atlantic Monthly.

The terror of a patient who is suffering from mental derangement is often pathetic. Surround him with granite walls, ten in number, and every wall ten feet thick, and he will still insist that he is unprotected. So it is with the militarist. No nation has ever yet voted appropriations sufficient to quiet his uneasy heart. England's formula of naval strength has for some time been: The British navy in capital ships must equal the next two strongest navies, plus 10 per cent. But notwithstanding the British navy is today in battle ships and cruisers and torpedo-boats almost equal to the next three strongest navies, never has England's security been so precarious, according to her greatest military experts, as to-day. It has been discovered at the eleventh hour that her mighty navy is no safeguard at all, unless backed up by a citizen army of at least 1,000,000 men. It was once the aim to protect England against probable combinations against her. The ambition now is to protect her against all possible combinations. In the words of a high authority in the British army, she must protect herself against not only the dangers she has any reason to expect, but also against those which nobody expects.

There are obsessions which obtain so firm a grip upon the mind that it is difficult to banish them. For example, a man who has the impression that he is being tracked by a vindictive and relentless foe is not going to sit down and quietly listen to an argument the aim of which is to prove that no such enemy exists, and that the sounds which have caused the panic are the footfalls of an approaching friend. The militarist will listen to no man who attempts to prove that his "perils" are creations of the brain. Indeed, he is exceedingly impatient under contradiction; and, here again, he is like all victims of hallucinations. To deny his assumptions or to question his conclusions, is to him both blasphemy and treason, a sort of profanity, and imbecility worthy of contempt and scorn. He alone stands on foundations which cannot be shaken, and other men who do not possess his inside information, or technical training for dealing with such questions, are living in a fool's paradise. The ferocity with which he attacks all who dare oppose him is the fury of a man whose brain is abnormally excited.

Mr. Taft's Counselors.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Such a group of able counsel is not often assembled, and these are the men who will have to do with all the questions that arise concerning the relations of the government with corporations, which were left in such distressing confusion by the impulsive experiments and misdirected and fruitless prosecutions of the late administration. The restoration of order out of this confusion Mr. Taft has recognized as the most essential work before him, and while his own judicial character fits him to preside over this work, it is clear that he means to have it done competently and carefully throughout, to re-establish confidence in "a government of measures and not of men."

Hostility to Wealth.

From Leslie's Weekly.

Cruel wrong is done by those who constantly seek to array the poor against the rich, and to misrepresent the latter as void of sympathy and all the kindly instincts of humanity. When we stop to think that most of our rich men of today were the poor men of a few years ago, we realize the injustice of the accusation. In this great country, where opportunities for advancement are open to all, and where every one has his rights fully safeguarded, no class distinction should be permitted to prevail. Demagogues who endeavor to create such distinction should be regarded as a menace to the public welfare, and be treated accordingly.

Mr. Dickinson and the Canal.

From the Chattanooga Times.

Mr. Dickinson surrenders a lucrative position of great responsibility to accept public service, sacrificing his own personal interests in the exercise of a high patriotic resolve to devote himself to the welfare of his country. He has shown himself to be a man of large attainments, keen perception, and sound judgment, and is eminent as a lawyer and adviser in the management of one of the largest railroad properties of the country. Especially, therefore, will he be of tremendous service in pushing forward the Panama Canal, the enterprise of supreme importance to the South coming directly under his supervision and care.

Race Agitators and Law.

From the New York World.

If a set of turbulent race agitators could cause any State to overrule the law of the nation, all treaties would be so much waste paper, and the United States would be involved in incessant difficulties with foreign countries.

A Sizable Package.

From the St. Louis Times.

Under the nine-foot law, the Missourian who gets "three sheets in the wind" will carry quite a sizable original package.

AT THE HOTELS.

"Roosevelt, I believe, in proper time, will again enter public life. He is of a temperament which compels him to be actively interested in the politics of the country. He will, unless I am much mistaken, be back again in the White House. The people, the masses, have always been his greatest stronghold," said John D. Crimmins, of New York, at the Shoreham last night. Mr. Crimmins is well known in New York politics. Although a Democrat, he voted for Roosevelt and for Taft.

"I did not agree on every point with Roosevelt. He was too strenuous in the manner in which he instituted reforms, and caused considerable injury to legally established business interests. The reforms could have been brought about just as effectively in a less ostentatious manner by taking into consideration the fact that many of the concerns he attacked, or all of them, were doing business under powers granted to them by law of the various lawmaking bodies of the United States. All in all, however, Roosevelt benefited this country immensely in a material sense, and particularly by uplifting the moral conscience of the people.

"As a private citizen, Col. Roosevelt occupies a most unique position. There was never a President so original, and it is rather difficult, therefore, to prophesy what he may do or what the future has in store for him. I have an idea he is glad to have a chance to rest for some time, anyway.

"It is a question whether Roosevelt's temperament in a deliberative body, like the United States Senate, would be suitable for him as a representative of New York State in that national body. He can never equal in that respect Senator Root, who is conservative and yet aggressive, while Roosevelt seems to be impulsive and impetuous."

Of President Taft, Mr. Crimmins said that he would continue Mr. Roosevelt's policies, but that he would achieve results in a less strenuous and more judicial manner than did his predecessor. He believed that business would improve under the present administration, the commercial and banking interests reposing the greatest confidence in President Taft.

Discussing the mayoralty possibilities, Mr. Crimmins said that a number of names had been mentioned, but that no candidate had yet been named who would prove an exceptionally strong man with the exception of Nathan Straus, who, Mr. Crimmins said, would make an excellent mayor of New York. He added, however, that the discussion of this subject was somewhat premature.

Bellamy Storer and Mrs. Storer are at the Shoreham. Speaking of his visit to the White House on Sunday evening, Mr. Storer said yesterday that it had absolutely no political significance.

"It is perfectly natural that we should call on President Taft. We have always been friends, and, in fact, have grown up together."

The question of mining being discussed, Harry S. Burton, of San Francisco, a practical mining man, who is at the Arlington, said yesterday that gold grows.

"Gold not only grows," said the Californian, "but it is being deposited in California to-day by the hot solfatarras at Sulphur Creek, in Colusa County, where any one who pleases may see it. It occurs with cinnabar, free sulphur, and bitumen, a combination which has probably not a parallel in any other part of the world. I have seen cinnabar brought down with crystals of gold imbedded in it. The gold is deposited on the outside of silicious rock in the form of crystals, and is plainly formed by the evaporation of aqueous deposits. There are specimens of this in the California State museum.

"This all confirms a theory, long held by me, that when gold is found in pockets in quartz ledges it has been carried there by tellurides, which volatilizes, leaving the gold behind. This is the way I account for a singular development up in Coos County.

"While doing some placer mining in a certain locality there, some of the men thought there must be a quartz ledge nearby, from which the gold came. So they turned on a stream of water and 'hydrauliced' a ledge which carried an infinitesmal quantity of the metal, excepting in one hole, shaped like a stovepipe and going down, no one knew how far. This hole was like an underground furnace, for it was lined as if with soot with telluride of gold, telluride of silver, and free gold, and they took $1,000 out of it."

Discussing tariff relations between the United States and Germany, Herr Friedrich Gerhardt, a wholesale exporter of Hamburg, who is at the New Willard, said last night:

"There are indications that Germany will be among the first of the European countries to take advantage of an arrangement with America to secure minimum tariff rates under the terms of the new tariff act, which is expected to be passed at the special session of Congress.

"Count von Bernstorff, our Ambassador here, I believe to be thoroughly equipped, by consultation with his foreign office and customs officials, to undertake this task. It is my impression that the new tariff act will be framed to take effect immediately upon its approval by President Taft. How do I know? I do not know positively, but I have made a thorough study of the matter, and I have decided views on the question.

"In order to secure whatever advantages may be expected to following the application of minimum instead of maximum tariff rates on imports into the United States, it will be necessary for the foreign ambassadors and ministers resident in Washington to have arranged in advance of that date new treaty relations with the American government. In the case of some European countries a disposition has been shown to forestall action by the American Congress and guard their own export trade with America by considerably increasing their existing tariff rates, with the design of obtaining the basis of new arrangements with America without sacrificing to any considerable extent the protection which they now enjoy against competition with American exports. So far as I know, this is not true of Germany, and with this element of good faith in his overtures I am under the impression that our Ambassador is likely to meet with a cordial reception of his tariff propositions."

"I read in this morning's paper that the Pittsburg police will not permit the gun silencer to be sold in that city," said James W. Cleary, of Oklahoma City, Okla., who is at the Raleigh.

"I am decidedly of the opinion that the gun silencer is a most dangerous aid to the man of bad designs, the burglar, the general all-round bad man who totes a gun to accomplish his crooked work.

"Just think of the possibilities which this silencer gives to the evil-minded! With one of those things clipped on to his gun, a thug or murderer could stand 100 feet off from a person, shoot him, and then get away without any fear of detection. This thing is bound to prove dangerous to the peace of every community.

"So far as its use in the army is concerned, I suppose we must accept what the experts say, namely, that the more dangerous and destructive the weapon, the more effective it is to preserve or restore peace. Anyway, none of 'them there things' on my gun."

Taxation.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.

Nearly every man is in favor of a tax on incomes that are larger than his own.